1	2	3	4	5
24	M/s Raipur Alloys Steel Ltd.	&Gare-Palma-IV/7	Chhattisgarh	Sponge Iron Production/Captive Power Plant
25	M/s B.S. Ispat	Marki-Mangli	Maharashtra	Sponge Iron Production
26	M/s Orissa Mining Corporation Limited	Cor-Utkal-D	Orissa	Power Generation
27	M/s Punjab State Electricity Board	Pachwara (Provisional =conditional upon sub-blocking =sub-blocking awaited)	Jharkhand	Power Generation

Safety measures in mines

303. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to enhance safety measures in the underground and open cast coal mines; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by various coal companies and their subsidiaries in their respective mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries to enhance safety measures are as under:—

(A) For underground mines:—

(i) Check correlation survey to guard against inundation—out of 178 mines identified work has been completed in 107 mines and is in process of completion in balance 71 mines.

(ii) Connecting all mine plans to national grid—has almost been completed.

(iii) Wherever required the thickness of barrier between adjacent mines have been proved by positive methods like drilling.

(iv) Replacement of timber support by steel support in a phased manner.

(v) Support plan have been framed on the basis of Rock Mass Rating (RMR) study.

(vi) Hand held digital gas detectors in addition to flame safety lamps are being used for inflammable and noxious gases for regular monitoring of mine environment.

(vii) Continuous computerised Environmental Tele Monitoring Systems (ETMS) are being provided—36 mines have been identified for this purpose; 7 such systems are in operation and 6 more systems are under procurement.

(viii) Deployment of more SDL/LHD and introduction of PSLW equipment to reduce exposure of workers to hazards.

(ix) Before every monsoon, danger of inundation from both surface and underground mines are examined for each mine and action plan drawn and implemented.

(x) Support personnel and other key personnel, such as supervisory staff are being given extensive job specific training.

(B) For opencast mines:

(1) Comprehensive action plan framed to reduce accidents in opencast mines & at surface.

(2) Special drives for checking configuration of over burden and coal benches and O.B. dump slope stability.

(3) Improvement in lighting.

(4) Stress given on monitoring haul roads and prior checking of road worthiness of vehicles.

(5) Traffic rules framed and being enforced in opencast mines.

(6) Rest shelters at conspicuous places have been set up.

(7) Personnel like HEMM operators etc. are being given extensive job specific training.

(C) General

(i) Safety audits are being done regularly.

(ii) Thrust has been given on quality of inspections. Inspection by ISO have also been increased.

(iii) Workers involvement have been increased in safety through their participation in different fora and through training, publicity and propaganda and organising special safety drives.

(iv) CIL has established structured multi disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) for monitoring safety status—both at subsidiary level and CIL Head Quarters. Safety status is also being monitored through monthly meetings of Safety Committee at mine level, Annual Tripartite Committee, meeings at area level, bi-annual meeting of CIL safety board and also bi-annual meetings of the standing committee on safety in coal mines. Recommendations of the above monitoring agencies are implemented to enhance the safety measures.

(v) Programme has been taken up to provide Filter Self Rescuers (FSRs) to all workmen apart from personal protective equipment like shoes, helmets etc.

(vi) Rescue services have been improved.

Setting up of Caustic Soda factory in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh

†304. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that a caustic soda factory based on solution of salt can be easily set up in Drang area of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh due to abundance of salt rocks in this area; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.